



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** April 10, 2023
SUBJECT: Consider Resolution No. 2023-024, authorizing submission of the grant application for the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission Pool Safety Grant
PRESENTER: Meagan Merrill, Program Manager/Coordinator of Special Projects

SUMMARY:

The City of North Richland Hills Neighborhood Services Department requests approval to apply for grant funds to provide certifications and training for code officials who regulate residential and commercial aquatic facilities. This will ensure aquatic facilities are built fully in compliance with law and with fewer safety issues, which will ultimately reduce drowning risk in North Richland Hills and our surrounding region. Grant funds will also be used to increase water safety awareness for priority populations at risk of drowning in North Richland Hills and the greater DFW Metroplex by funding outreach through the NRH Water Safety 365 program.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in our region, and the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 15. Texas regularly leads the nation in the number of fatal child drownings, and Tarrant County regularly leads Texas. Sadly, North Richland Hills has not been exempted from these statistics. There have been four drowning-related incidents in NRH involving children in the last nine years. In 2016, the City of North Richland Hills, with the aid of community champions Vanessa and Robert Copeland, started the NRH Water Safety 365 drowning prevention initiative to try and prevent drowning in our community. Since that time, NRH has received numerous awards for our efforts, but donations and funding are no longer incoming.

This grant will continue our efforts to prevent drowning in North Richland Hills and our region by providing over 800 free training classes and certifications to regulators and code officials who regulate swimming pools/spas. This will cover the cost of educational materials and outreach that will include all NRH child cares, all Birdville ISD elementary schools, all NRH public pool operators, many large NRH community events, and the regional drowning prevention coalition.

The total amount requested to fund these initiatives will be around \$400,000. There is no cost match required with the Pool Safety Grant.



RECOMMENDATION:
Approve Resolution 2023-024.